

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Chairwoman  
United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on State and  
Foreign Operations  
HB-26, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on State and  
Foreign Operations  
HB-26, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

We respectfully request that you increase international family planning assistance funding by \$405 million from last year's level, including a total of \$65 million for the United Nations Population Fund in the Fiscal Year 2010 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill. This increase will reverse a decade of inadequate funding and will prevent grave consequences for the health and well-being of women, children and families across the globe for generations.

Since 1995, international family planning funds have declined by 40 percent in real dollars while the number of women of reproductive age in the developing world has increased by 300 million. Today, 200 million women want but lack access to contraceptives, and this demand is projected to rise by 40 percent over the next 15 years. Our request represents the United States fair share of the amount necessary to address the existing unmet need for family planning. By doing so, more than 18 million additional women in the developing world would be able to use modern methods of contraception.

Inadequate funding for international family planning holds grave consequences for the health and well-being of women, families and communities across the globe. More than half a million women die from pregnancy related causes and childbirth complications every year. The vast majority of these preventable deaths occur in the poorest countries in the world where there are limited services to promote safe motherhood and a lack of basic health infrastructure. Furthermore, 50 percent of infant deaths result from poor maternal health and inadequate safe delivery care. Family planning is paramount to turn the tide on maternal and infant mortality.

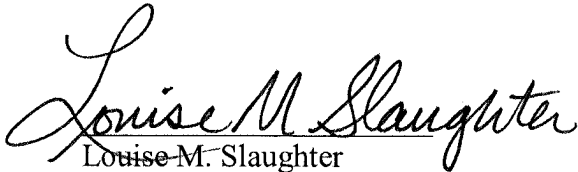
The direct and rippling positive impact of an investment in family planning is clear. Slowing the population's rapid growth will ease pressure on natural resources and decrease emissions that lead to global warming. Given the ability to control the size and spacing of their children, families' standards of living rise and communities are lifted out of cyclical poverty. Family planning encourages social stability in the developing world,

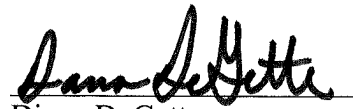
which in turn, assures our national security. Access to reproductive health care and family planning is the hallmark in our effort to advance the rights and empowerment of women. All the while from a fiscal standpoint, we know an investment now in family planning holds real cost savings for the American taxpayers in the future.

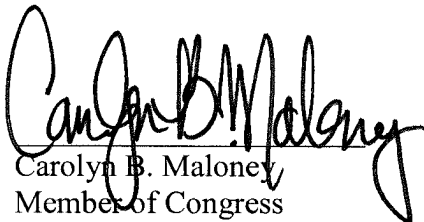
The U.S supports family planning projects in more than fifty developing nations. Each year, these programs help prevent 60 million unplanned births, 105 million abortions and nearly 3 million infant deaths. These projects promote safe motherhood initiatives, combat sexual and gender-based violence, and prevent and treat HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, reducing the risk of mother to child transmission.

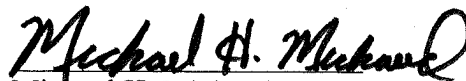
For a healthier world and planet, we firmly support strengthening international family planning programs and urge you increase international family planning assistance by \$405 million, including a total of \$65 million for the United Nations Population Fund in the FY 2010 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill. We appreciate your attention to this request.

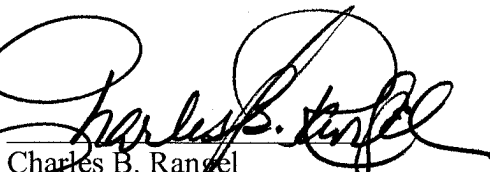
Sincerely,

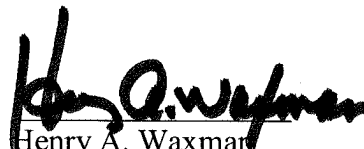
  
Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress

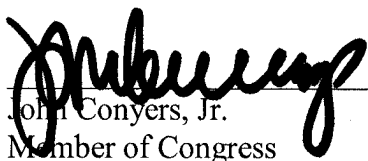
  
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

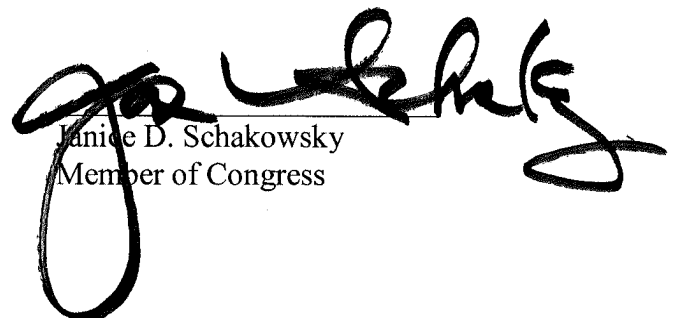
  
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

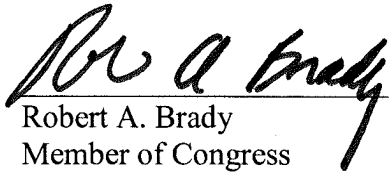
  
Michael H. Michaud  
Member of Congress

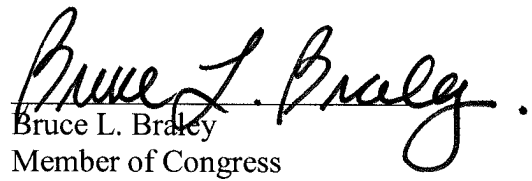
  
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress

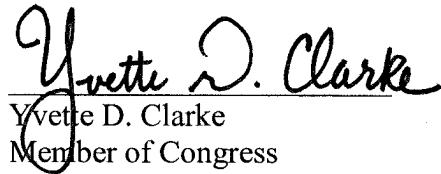
  
Henry A. Waxman  
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John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

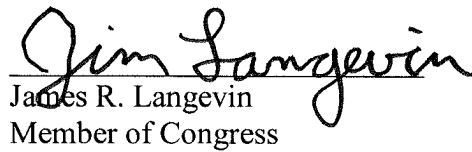
  
Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

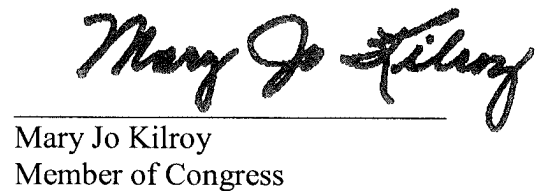
  
Robert A. Brady  
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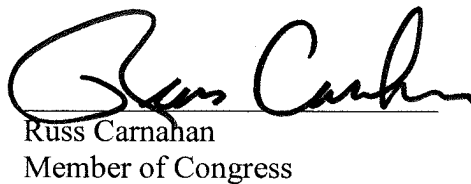
  
Bruce L. Braley  
Member of Congress

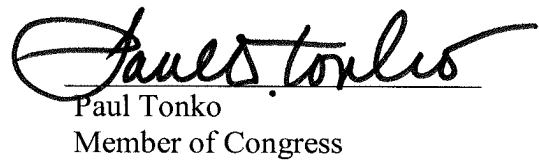
  
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

  
Donna Christensen  
Member of Congress

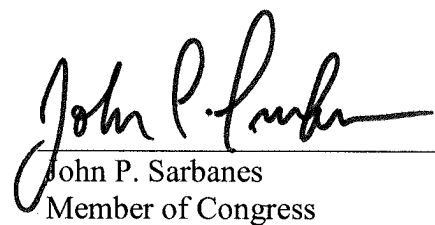
  
James R. Langevin  
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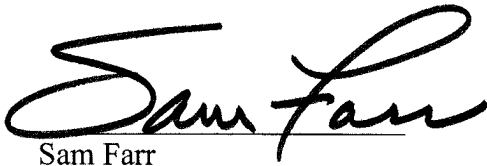
  
Mary Jo Kilroy  
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Russ Carnahan  
Member of Congress

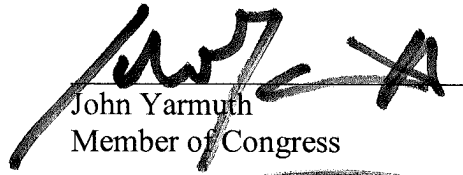
  
Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress

  
Michael E. McMahon  
Member of Congress

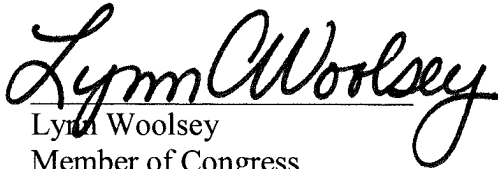
  
John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



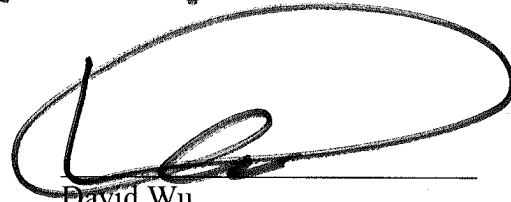
Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



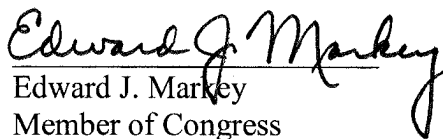
John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



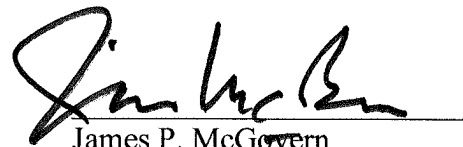
Lynn Woolsey  
Member of Congress



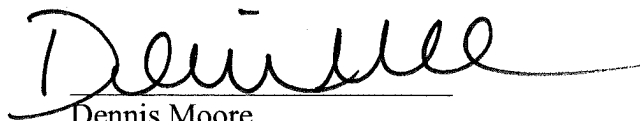
David Wu  
Member of Congress



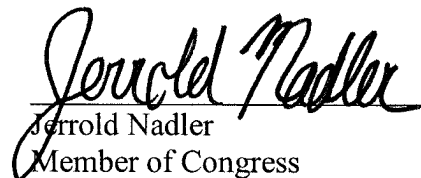
Edward J. Markey  
Member of Congress



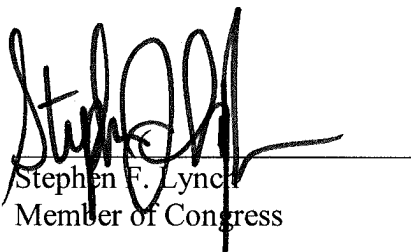
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



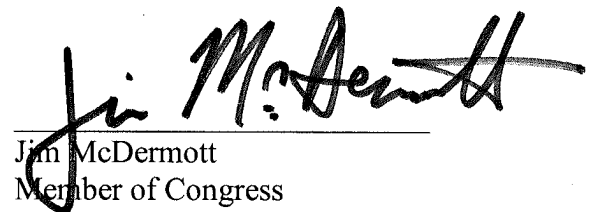
Dennis Moore  
Member of Congress



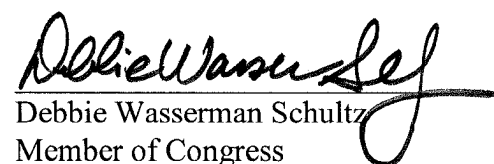
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



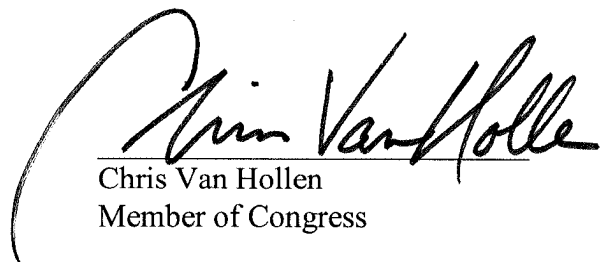
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress




Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress




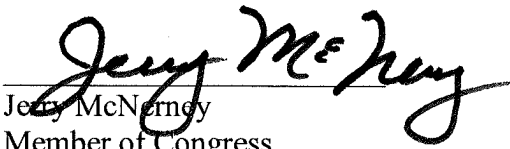
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

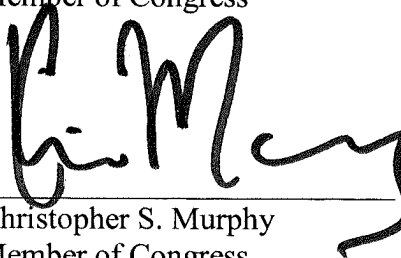



Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress

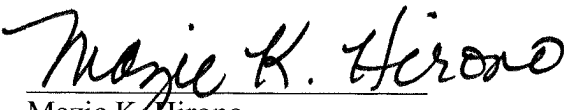
  
Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

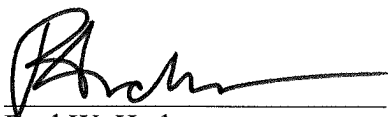
  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

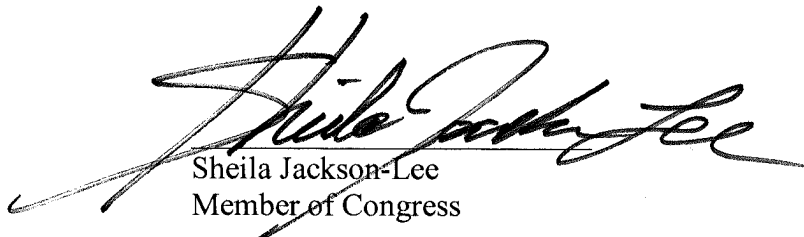
  
Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

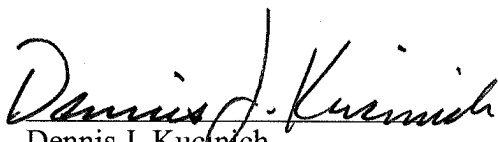
  
Christopher S. Murphy  
Member of Congress


  
Harry E. Mitchell  
Member of Congress


  
Mazie Hirono  
Member of Congress

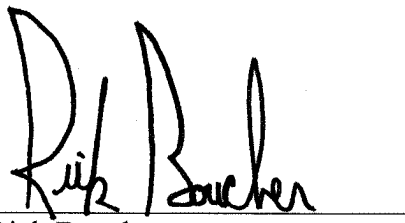
  
Paul W. Hodes  
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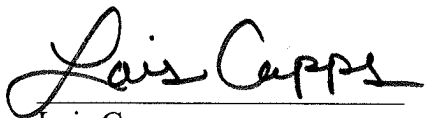
  
Sheila Jackson-Lee  
Member of Congress

  
Dennis J. Kucinich  
Member of Congress

  
Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress

  
Earl Blumenauer  
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Rick Boucher  
Member of Congress




Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



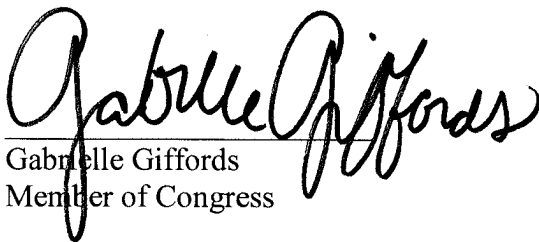
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



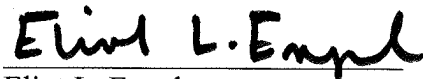
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress




Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



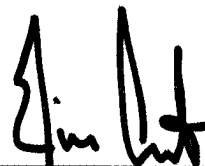
Gabrielle Giffords  
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel  
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Michael E. Capuano  
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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell Jr.  
Member of Congress



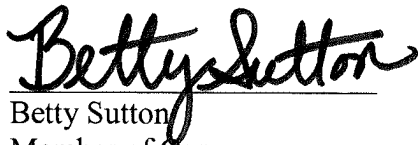
Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



Fortney Pete Stark  
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Ellen O. Tauscher  
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Betty Sutton

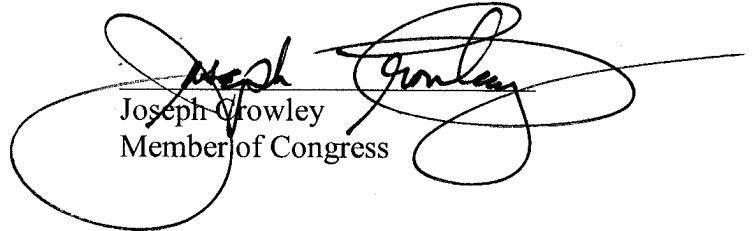
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Peter Welch

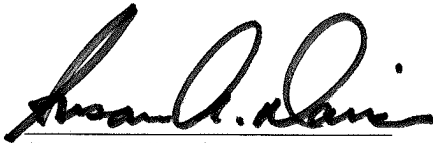
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Maxine Waters

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Joseph Crowley

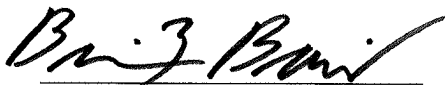
Member of Congress

  
Susan A. Davis

Member of Congress

  
William Delahunt

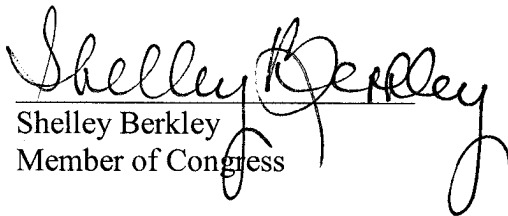
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Brian Baird

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Tammy Baldwin

Member of Congress

  
Shelley Berkley

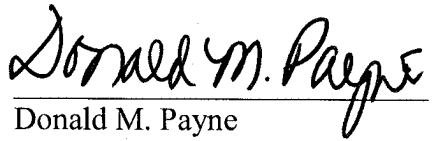
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Steve Cohen


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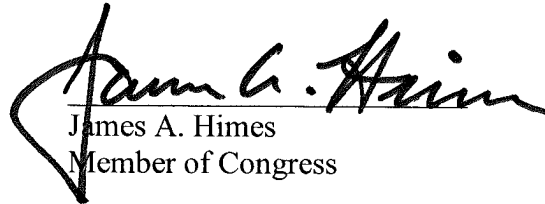
  
Maurice D. Hinchey


Member of Congress

  
Donald M. Payne  
Member of Congress

  
Rush D. Holt  
Member of Congress

  
Neil Abercrombie  
Member of Congress

  
James A. Himes  
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